

**Conservation Committee Meeting Minutes
Cape Elizabeth Town Hall
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

Present: Corinne Ketcham, Chair, Emily Helliesen Day, Stacy Dietsch, Matthew Grymak, Bruce Moore, Mitch Wacksman.

Staff: Maureen O'Meara, Town Planner

1. Call to Order. Chair Ketcham called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Citizen comments

David Briman, CELT Executive Director – In response to a committee question, he said the Town Farm easement held by CELT expires in 2050. He would like the next step to be to make the easement permanent. He also noted CELT's 40th anniversary and invited the committee to attend a celebration on February 25th.

Ardath Dixon, CELT Stewardship Manager – She wanted to know who to speak to start the discussion about the Town Farm easement. Ms. O'Meara will check on that.

Mr. Wacksman asked about the conservation instrument and Ms. O'Meara said there is an easement deed.

3. Minutes. Mr. Wacksman made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mr. Moore, and the motion passed 6-0.

4. CELT easement monitoring follow-up

Ms. O'Meara reviewed the list of property owners in Cross Hill that would receive a letter regarding encroachment onto town owned open space and the draft letter. Chair Ketcham is willing to sign the letters.

Ms. Dixon reported that she sent 13 emails today to follow up on documented encroachments, and included photos and maps. She has received 2 responses. She does need to talk some people down and also has thoughtful conversations.

Mr. Wacksman made a motion to send the letters, which was seconded by Ms. Day, and the motion passed 6-0.

Ms. Dixon updated the information on status at 40 Cross Hill Rd.

5. Greenbelt Implementation/Management

STI permitting proposal. The committee reviewed the proposal from Sebago Technics to obtain the remaining state permitting for greenbelt trail improvements identified in the FB Environmental Report. The committee also reviewed existing and anticipated budget funding and outstanding commitments. The committee agreed to revisit this in June after the budget is adopted, with the expectation that they would proceed with all additional permitting needed.

Priority Projects List. The committee reviewed the draft list. Mr. Moore made a motion to approve the Priority Project list 2025, seconded by Mrs. Ketcham, and the motion passed 6-0. Ms. O'Meara will send it to the boy scouts.

MCC application. The committee discussed a potential MCC application, including project candidates, other projects, and available funds in existing budget and potential future funding. The committee decided to hold off on an MCC application this year. Ms. Day commented on the existing boardwalk sketch we are using. Ms. O'Meara agreed it has been confusing for volunteers and will get a new one done.

Field Management Policy. The committee reviewed the draft policy modeled after the practice developed by the Public Works Department. The committee asked that more information be provided on the research used to develop the policy.

Trails Bond. The committee asked staff to obtain more information on the trails bond for future discussion.

Gazette. The committee suggested the following items for the next Gazette: CELT 40th anniversary, Cross Hill encroachment letters, reminder on groomed cross-country trails, Great Pond boat rack lottery applications.

6. Planning Board Review. The Conservation Committee reviewed the Blue Meadow Condominium final application. The committee appreciated the parking added to the plan for greenbelt trail users and agreed that the open space layout looks reasonable. The committee would like the option to have the trail be a loop.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wacksman, that the Conservation Committee recommends the Resource Protection permit and open space layout with the condition that a note be added to the plan that the trail layout may include a loop trail, and noting appreciation for the 2 parking spaces provided for open space users and support for the open space layout. The motion passed 6-0.

7. Next meeting. The next meeting of the committee will be held on March 11th. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.